

And reaching a conclusion from it. It is a word that is used in the Latin translation of a passage in Paul's epistle. It is not an obscure passage. It is a passage in which Paul speaks in an emphatic way. He begins it with the words, I would not have you to be ignorant brethren. Yet we find multitudes of fine Christians, and numbers of good Christian ministers have been entirely ignorant on this particular subject. Paul says he does not want us to be ignorant of it.

It is unfortunate some think they know all the details about it. Some work out particular details which sound rather strange; others will mock at these and argue it back and forth, but the basic things will be forgotten. But the basic thing is what is vital, and Paul says, I would not have you to be ignorant. So I believe it is important for Christian ministers and for Christian people not to be ignorant about the rapture of the church.

This passage as I suppose most of you know is 1 Thess. 4:13-18. Paul says, I would not have <sup>you</sup> to be ignorant brethren concerning them which are asleep that ye sorrow not even as others who have no hope. Now he says concerning those who are sleep. There are those who say, I take everything in the Bible literally! I believe everything in the Bible is literal. Well, we don't sorrow about people who are asleep. It's quite obvious here that he is using a figure of speech, that he means people who are dead, people whose bodies have ceased to be of use to them and therefore they are not tied to that physical structure God has lent them for a few years any longer.